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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 26 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to complain of another serious incident that constitutes a grave violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). This evening at approximately 18:50 local time, a 107-millimetre rocket was fired from Lebanon and struck the area of the city of Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel. Thankfully, the rocket landed in an open area and no injuries or serious damage has been reported. In response, and in exercise of Israel's right to self-defence, Israeli Defense Forces fired artillery shells at the source of the rocket launch. Israel expects a prompt investigation by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces into this terrorist attack against its territory and that the report's findings will be presented to the relevant parties as soon as possible.

In the past four months, there has been a significant increase in hostile activity emanating from Lebanese territory south of the Litani River. This includes the two explosions of Hizbullah arms depots in the villages of Khirbat Salim on 14 July 2009, and Tayr Filsi on 12 October 2009, as well as the firing of a number of rockets at northern Israel on 11 September 2009. In response to such developments, I wish to reiterate that Israel holds the Government of Lebanon fully responsible for any and all activities emanating from its territory.

Given this increase in hostile activity, the upcoming report on the implementation of resolution 1701 must accurately reflect all of these grave incidents. For the last three years — and as I have noted in my letters and interventions to the Council — the Hizbullah terrorist organization continues to rearm as it builds additional and new military infrastructure south of the Litani River. Hizbullah embeds itself into the civilian population while its operatives and affiliated individuals harass UNIFIL, threaten its soldiers, and impede the implementation of resolution 1701. Israel expects the Security Council to address these violations in its next debate.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador

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